

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 568

To provide funding to State and local law enforcement agencies to combat auto theft and stolen automobile trafficking, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 20, 2025

Ms. SHERRILL (for herself and Mr. BACON) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide funding to State and local law enforcement agencies to combat auto theft and stolen automobile trafficking, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Auto Theft Prevention
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AUTO THEFT PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the
9 Office of Community Oriented Policing Services of the De-
10 partment of Justice shall establish an auto theft preven-

1 tion grant program (in this Act referred to as the “Pro-
2 gram”) to provide funding to State law enforcement agen-
3 cies and local law enforcement agencies to combat auto
4 theft and stolen vehicle trafficking.

5 (b) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The Director shall make
6 grants under the Program to the Attorney General of each
7 State, with the amount awarded proportional to the overall
8 level of auto thefts within each State in the year prior
9 to the date of the disbursement of the grant.

10 (c) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—

11 (1) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.—

12 The Attorney General of a State shall make at least
13 50 percent of a grant awarded under the Program
14 available as competitive subgrants to local law en-
15 forcement agencies to combat auto theft, with the
16 amount awarded determined by prioritizing localities
17 with a higher overall level of auto thefts in the year
18 prior to the date of the disbursement of the grant.

19 (2) STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.—

20 The Attorney General of a State shall make at least
21 25 percent of a grant awarded under the Program
22 available to State law enforcement agencies to com-
23 bat auto theft.

24 (3) OTHER AMOUNTS.—The Attorney General
25 of a State shall make any proportion of the grant

1 awarded under the Program not allocated under
2 paragraph (1) or (2) available as competitive sub-
3 grants to local law enforcement agencies or to State
4 law enforcement agencies. Any subgrant made under
5 this paragraph to a local law enforcement agency
6 shall follow the prioritization under paragraph (1).

7 (d) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—Amounts from a grant
8 awarded under the Program may only be used for the pur-
9 pose of combating auto theft and combating stolen auto-
10 mobile trafficking, including—

11 (1) purchasing equipment used to combat auto
12 theft, such as law enforcement vehicles and license
13 plate readers, and funding costs associated with that
14 equipment, such as subscription fees and data stor-
15 age fees for license plate readers;

16 (2) hiring additional law enforcement officers
17 and support staff to combat auto theft;

18 (3) funding overtime costs and additional com-
19 pensation for law enforcement officers and support
20 staff involved in combating auto theft;

21 (4) providing training for law enforcement offi-
22 cers and support staff to combat auto theft;

23 (5) providing resources for joint task forces es-
24 tablished to combat auto theft;

1 (6) funding law enforcement data collection,
 2 data storage, and research activities related to com-
 3 bating auto theft; and

4 (7) funding for the administrative costs of ap-
 5 plying for and implementing the grant, up to a max-
 6 imum of 5 percent of the grant amount.

7 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 8 authorized to be appropriated \$30,000,000 for each of fis-
 9 cal years 2026 through 2030 to carry out the Program.

10 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZED USES OF COPS GRANT**
 11 **PROGRAM FUNDS.**

12 Section 1701(b) of the Omnibus Crime Control and
 13 Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381(b)) is amend-
 14 ed—

15 (1) by redesignating paragraph (24) as para-
 16 graph (25);

17 (2) in paragraph (23)—

18 (A) by striking “(22)” and inserting
 19 “(23)”; and

20 (B) by redesignating paragraph (23) as
 21 paragraph (24); and

22 (3) by inserting after paragraph (22), the fol-
 23 lowing:

24 “(23) to combat auto thefts and stolen auto-
 25 mobile trafficking by purchasing equipment, hiring

1 law enforcement officers and support staff, covering
2 overtime and officer compensation costs, expanding
3 access to training initiatives, funding joint task
4 forces, and funding law enforcement data collection
5 and research activities related to auto thefts;”.

6 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The
9 term “local law enforcement agency” means any en-
10 tity administered by a locality that exists primarily
11 to prevent and detect crime and enforce criminal
12 laws.

13 (2) LOCALITY.—The term “locality” means any
14 city, county, township, town, borough, parish, vil-
15 lage, or other general purpose political subdivision of
16 a State.

17 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means any
18 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
19 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-
20 lands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Common-
21 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

22 (4) STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The
23 term “State law enforcement agency” means any

- 1 State entity that exists primarily to prevent and de-
- 2 tect crime and enforce criminal laws.

